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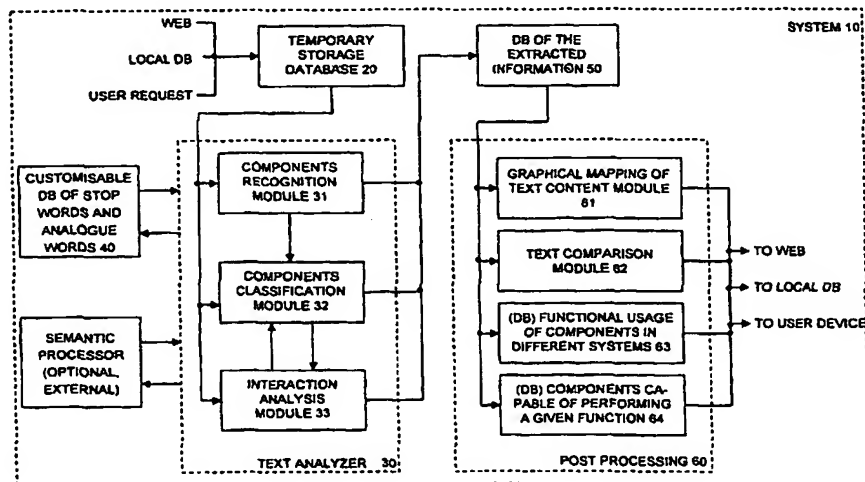
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*[Continued on next page]*

**(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING FUNCTIONAL ANALYSES MAKING USE OF A PLURALITY OF INPUTS**



**(S7) Abstract:** A computer based software system and method for performing automatic analyses and comparisons of patents and technical descriptions of engineering systems (as technical reports, usage and maintenance handbooks, overhaul manuals etc.) capable of translating the text of the invention into a block diagram whose graphical representation is made according to the main market standards, i.e. functional models, IDEF models etc., recognizing the components of the system (even if referenced with several nomenclatures), identifying their abstraction level hierarchy up to the lowest detail level as well as their functional and control interactions. Further features are the definition of a database of functional uses of a given component among the analyzed patents and/or a database of the subsystems capable of performing a given task. Such databases of components usages and functions fulfillments allow the fast retrieval of technical solutions and can be easily integrated with CAD systems and conceptual design software tools.

**WO 03/077154 A2**



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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International Application No  
PCT/EP 03/01554

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/27

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01 01289 A (INVENTION MACHINE CORPORATION) 4 January 2001 (2001-01-04) the whole document	1-31
A	US 6 167 370 A (TSOURIKOV ET AL.) 26 December 2000 (2000-12-26) cited in the application the whole document	1-31
A	US 5 774 833 A (NEWMAN) 30 June 1998 (1998-06-30) the whole document	1-31

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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